DARK HORSE COMICS

#1

THE ORVILLE

NEW BEGINNINGS

PART 1 OF 2

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NEW BEGINNINGS PART 1 OF 2

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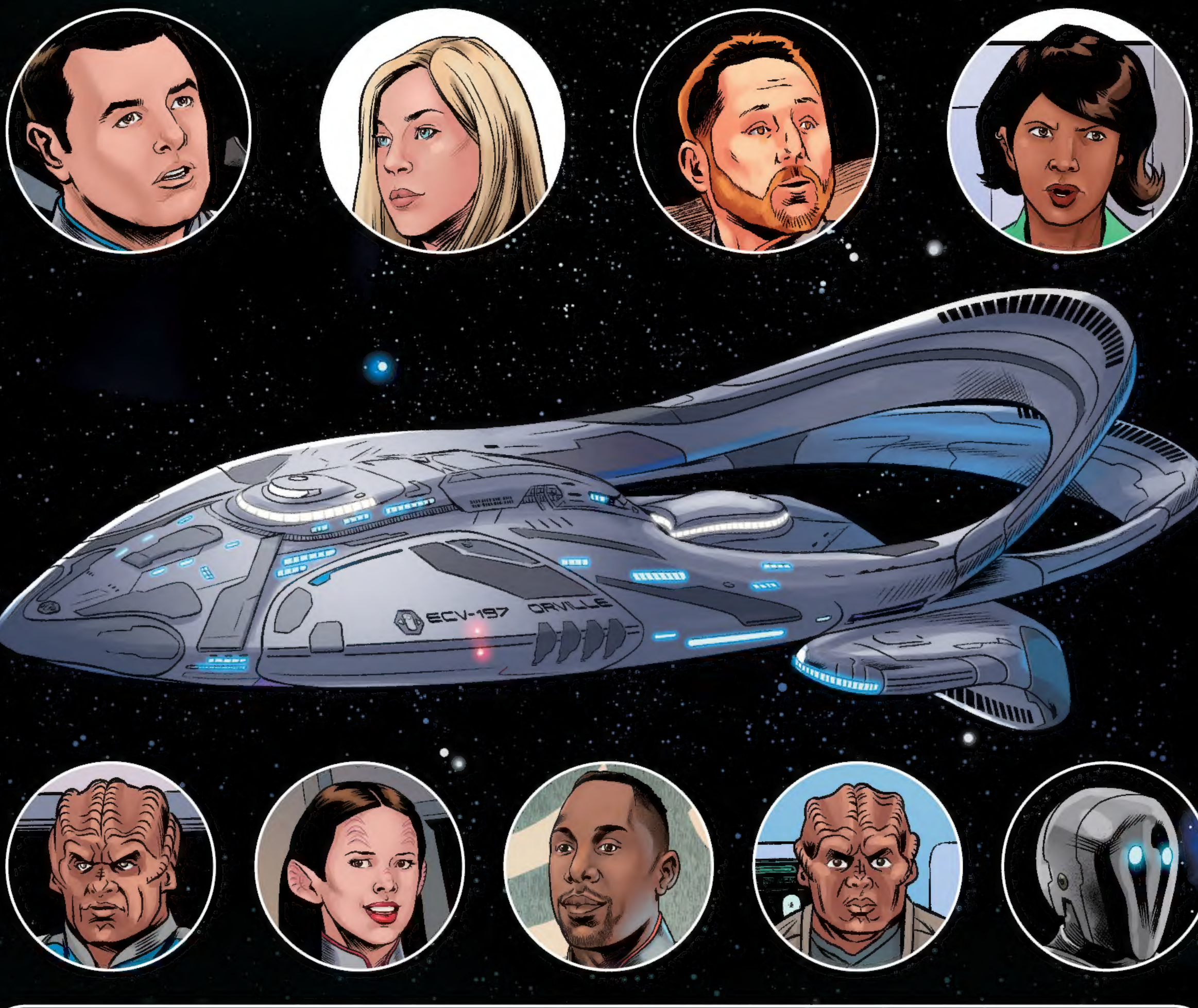

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HEY.

HEY.

REMEMBER WHEN I SAID YOU AND I TOGETHER JEOPARDIZES YOUR COMMAND, JEOPARDIZES THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF THIS SHIP, AND IT JEOPARDIZES OUR FRIENDSHIP?

YEAH...

I DON'T CARE.

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

I HATE DREAMS.

MAGNETAR DESIGNATED AXP 1E 1048-59, A NEUTRON STAR WITH A VERY POWERFUL MAGNETIC FIELD.

ECV-197 ORVILLE

"ISAAC, HOW MUCH LONGER?"

I WOULD ESTIMATE, CAPTAIN, THAT MY INVESTIGATION OF THE MAGNETAR WILL TAKE ANOTHER FORTY-EIGHT POINT NINE SEVEN HOURS--

OH MY GOD, TWO MORE DAYS OF THIS?

LIEUTENANT, THE SPECIFIC PROPERTIES OF MAGNETAR AXP 1E 1048-59 ARE QUITE UNUSUAL.

YOU KNOW HOW BORING THIS MAGNETAR IS? THEY DIDN'T EVEN NAME IT.

ED, THE TACTICAL CONFERENCE ON OUTPOST 23 IS TOMORROW--

I KNOW.

YOU AND GORDON ARE SCHEDULED TO BRIEF THEM FIRST THING--

THANKS, I GOT IT.

ALARA, PREP A SHUTTLE. GORDON, PACK A BAG.

YES!

YES, SIR.

COMMANDER, COMPLETE THE SCANS OF THE MAGNETAR TO ISAAC'S SATISFACTION, AND THEN PICK US UP AT OUTPOST 23.

"YOU KNOW, ED, REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE..."

...FILLING THEM IN ON OUR EXPERIENCE ON THE KRILL SHIP, LOVE PUBLIC SPEAKING.

YOU HATE PUBLIC SPEAKING.

OKAY, YEAH, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS I HATE MAGNETARS.

AND SPEAKING OF "HATE"... UH... WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU AND KELLY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, YOU GOTTA ADMIT, THINGS ARE A LITTLE TENSE ON THE BRIDGE SINCE SHE BROKE UP WITH YOU. *

*WHICH HAPPENED AT THE END OF THE FIRST SEASON EPISODE, "MAD IDOLATRY", A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THIS ADVENTURE.

SHE'S THE ONE WHO'S TENSE. I'M OVER IT.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING. I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM.

I BELIEVE YOU.

I'M GETTING A DISTRESS CALL.
I SAID I'M FINE--
NO, A REAL DISTRESS CALL, JUST UP AHEAD.
OH.
"AN OLD SHIP'S COMMUNICATIONS BUOY. GORDON, SEE IF YOU CAN INTERFACE WITH IT."
BCV BURTON
Bv2
IT'S FROM THE BATTLESHIP *BURTON*, OVER A HUNDRED YEARS OLD.
THE *BURTON*...
YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?
A BATTLE SHIP LOST IN THE WAR WITH THE TZEL.
EW, THOSE CATERPILLAR THINGS. YUCK.

IT WAS A BLOODY CONFLICT, COST THOUSANDS OF LIVES... YOU TOOK HISTORY, DIDN'T YOU?

I *TOOK* HISTORY, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I READ ANYTHING.

THE BUOY'S LOG SAYS THE SHIP WAS DAMAGED IN A BATTLE IN A STAR SYSTEM THREE LIGHT YEARS AWAY.

IT'S UNCHARTED.

SHOULD WE GO?

REGULATIONS. DISTRESS CALLS HAVE TO BE ANSWERED, EVEN ONES THAT ARE A HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

RAISE *ORVILLE*, WE SHOULD KEEP THEM APPRISED.

SHUTTLE TO *ORVILLE*, COME IN. SHUTTLE TO *ORVILLE*, DO YOU READ?

THEY'RE NOT READING US. PROBABLY TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE FROM THE MAGNETAR.

STUPID MAGNETAR.

STOP SAYING "MAGNETAR."

LET'S GO.

"THIS HAS GOT TO BE BETTER THAN A CONFERENCE."

"YOU JUST SAID YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING."

I LIED.

"EVER SINCE I PUT AN END TO IT, HE'S BEEN REALLY COLD..."

IT'S NO FUN TO WORK HERE ANYMORE.

OH, ARE WE HERE TO HAVE FUN? NOBODY TOLD ME.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...

LOOK, HE'S HURT, BUT THE LAST THING HE WANTS IS FOR YOU TO LEAVE. THINGS WILL GET EASIER.

PROBABLY WHEN ONE OR BOTH OF YOU FIND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS.

I HOPE HE FINDS HIS FIRST.

I APOLOGIZE FOR INTERRUPTING. I DID HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.

OH, SORRY, I WAS JUST LEAVING.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD STAY, COMMANDER.

COME IN. WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME ABOUT?

I WISH TO ENROLL TOPA IN SCHOOL, BUT THE TEACHER INFORMS ME THAT HE DOES NOT MEET THE AGE REQUIREMENT.

BORTUS, TOPA IS ONLY A FEW MONTHS OLD. THE SCHOOL DOESN'T ACCEPT CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF THREE.

HE IS QUITE OLD ENOUGH FOR SCHOOLING. AND KLYDEN HAS BEEN COMPLAINING THAT HE CANNOT SPEND HIS DAY ENTERTAINING HIM.

I'M SORRY, *BUT* THERE'S NOTHING--

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?!

THAT IS TOPA.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT, HE'S ONLY EIGHT MONTHS OLD, BUT HE'S AS DEVELOPED AS A HUMAN BOY OF SEVEN.

THIS WOULD BE NO SURPRISE IF YOU HAD STUDIED MOCLAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

DUE TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF SURVIVAL ON MOCLUS, EVOLUTION FAVORED INFANTS WHO MATURED QUICKLY.

HE IS MORE THAN DEVELOPED ENOUGH TO ATTEND YOUR SCHOOL.

I'M NOT ARGUING.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL TALK TO THE TEACHER.

THANK YOU, COMMANDER.

I WISH ED WAS HERE TO SEE THIS...

I WISH KELLY WAS HERE TO SEE THIS...

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME BATTLE."

BCV-1973

BCV-CONS

GOING TO BE HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE *BURTON* IS IN ALL THIS MESS.

THAT PLANET'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE SYSTEM WITH AN OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE. IF ANYONE SURVIVED, THAT'S WHERE THEY'D HAVE GONE.

ALL THIS JUNK IS INTERFERING WITH OUR SCANS.

TAKE US CLOSER.

"NOT A LOT OF LIFE DOWN THERE, ED."

LOOKS LIKE THE SURFACE WAS DECIMATED IN SOME KIND OF GLOBAL CATASTROPHE.

PICKING UP AN ENERGY SURGE--

KRRRAK

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW BUT IT KNOCKED OUT OUR ENGINES. IF WE DIDN'T HAVE SHIELDS, WE'D BE DUST.

DO WE HAVE ANYTHING?

MANEUVERING THRUSTERS, THAT'S IT!

WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO LAND NEAR WHOEVER FIRED AT US...

"HOW ABOUT WE JUST WORRY ABOUT *LANDING!*"

YOU TURNED RIGHT TOWARD THAT PLATEAU.

I'M GOING TO SKIM OFF IT. GOTTA SLOW US DOWN.

DID WE SLOW DOWN ENOUGH?

NOT GONNA MATTER.

ECV-197-1

NICE LANDING.

THANKS.

ECV-197-1

I SET THE DISTRESS BEACON, THOUGH WITH ALL THAT DEBRIS UP THERE, *ORVILLE* WILL HAVE TO BE PRETTY CLOSE TO READ IT.

OUTPOST 23 WILL REPORT US MISSING. THEY'LL THEN FOLLOW THE SAME TRAIL THAT WE DID.

WHOEVER FIRED AT US IS ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS AWAY. COME ON.

OR MAYBE WE JUST HANG OUT HERE. YOU JUST SAID *ORVILLE* WILL FIND US.

AND WHEN THEY DO, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE WHOEVER FIRED ON US, DOESN'T FIRE ON THEM.

OH, ALL RIGHT.

GOD, I'D NEVER THOUGHT I'D MISS THE MAGNETAR.

"WHY DON'T WE ALL DRAW A PICTURE OF THE STAR?"

SORRY TO INTERRUPT...

NO PROBLEM, COMMANDER.

CALL ME KELLY.

WELL, THEN CALL ME CASSIUS.

NICE TO MEET YOU. CAN I HAVE A WORD?

YOU'RE BEING COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE!

I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE TELLING ME MY JOB! HE'S TOO YOUNG!

HIS DEVELOPMENT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT--

NOW YOU'RE GIVING ME A MOCLAN BIOLOGY LESSON?

LOOK--

NO, YOU LOOK!

THESE KIDS ARE MY RESPONSIBILITY, AND PUTTING HIM IN SCHOOL TOO EARLY COULD END UP DOING HIM MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

THE PARENTS FEEL HE'S READY.

PARENTS AREN'T ALWAYS RIGHT!

SOMETIMES THEY JUST WANT THEIR KID OUT OF THE HOUSE AND RATIONALIZE WHY IT'S A GOOD THING.

LOOK, I'M THROUGH ARGUING. INCLUDE TOPA IN THE CLASS.

I'LL FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION.

OOOH, BOARD OF EDUCATION, SUPER SCARY.

BOY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE?

SOME KIND OF SHOCKWAVE SWEPT THROUGH HERE, FOLLOWED BY A FIRESTORM. STILL TRACES OF RADIOACTIVITY.

SOME KIND OF PRIMITIVE NUCLEAR WAR?

POSSIBLY. BUT THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THESE BUILDINGS ARE TOO PRIMITIVE.

PROBABLY A POORER, LESS DEVELOPED SOCIETY ON THIS PLANET, HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS COMING.

ED, I'M PICKING UP A LOT OF LIFE FORMS.

...JUST OVER THAT RIDGE.

WHICH IS WHERE I'M READING THE POWER SOURCE OF THE WEAPON THAT SHOT US DOWN. LET'S GO.

I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO NEED THESE.

YEAH, PROBABLY NOT.

THERE'S ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED OF THEM. NO TECHNOLOGY TO SPEAK OF, AND NO WATER SOURCE...

...YET I'M STILL PICKING UP THAT POWER READING.

IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE THAT THESE CREATURES AT THIS LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY COULD'VE SHOT US DOWN.

OR THAT THEY COULD SURVIVE HERE WITHOUT WATER.

WHAT DO WE DO?

WHAT?

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST ASK THEM.

OH.

GREETINGS. I AM THOZ.

GREETINGS. I'M... ED, AND THIS IS GORDON.

HELLO.

WE HAVE NOT SEEN YOUR KIND BEFORE. WHAT KIND OF CHOG ARE YOU?

WE'RE NOT "CHOGS." WE'RE CALLED HUMANS.

WELL, WE WELCOME YOU. EVEN THIS LONG AFTER THE CALAMITY, THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ARE FINDING THEIR WAY HERE. COME!

GRAYSON TO ISAAC, REPORT PROGRESS.

I WILL BE FINISHED IN EIGHT HOURS, FIFTY SEVEN MINUTES.

VERY WELL, GRAYSON OUT.

HE'S GOING TO WRITE A REALLY LONG REPORT.

I HOPE SOMEONE BESIDES HIM *READS* IT.

BING

COME.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT. COMMANDER, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

A MINUTE.

I'LL STEP OUT.

NO, IT'S OKAY, STAY, IT'LL JUST TAKE A SECOND.

I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE. YOU WERE RIGHT.

REALLY?

YEAH, TOPA DID FINE IN HIS FIRST CLASS. I GUESS I COULD'VE USED A LECTURE ON MOCLAN BIOLOGY.

SO... NO COMPLAINTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

NO COMPLAINTS. I'LL LET YOU GET BACK TO WORK.

HE'S CUTE.

YOU SHOULD ASK HIM OUT.

I WAS THINKING HE'S MORE YOUR TYPE.

NO THANKS. I'D BE CRAZY TO DATE SOMEONE ABOARD THIS SHIP.

REALLY?

THAT'S NOT VERY REALISTIC.

WHY NOT?

WELL, YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO BE ON THIS SHIP FOR A FEW YEARS, RIGHT?

IF ALL GOES WELL.

SO... YOUR PLAN IS TO STAY CELIBATE THAT WHOLE TIME?

THEY'RE PRETTY FRIENDLY FOR PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO BLOW US OUT OF THE SKY.

NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE.

HERE, IT IS ALMOST TIME FOR THE EVENING MEAL.

THOZ, YOU MENTIONED THE "CALAMITY..."

YES. WHERE WE'RE FROM, WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT. WAS IT A WAR?

THE CALAMITY THAT BROUGHT US ALL HERE.

"WAR?" I DO NOT KNOW THAT WORD.

ARE ALL HUMANS AS TALL AS YOU?

NO, ED'S THE TALLEST, I'M THE SECOND TALLEST.

IT IS THE MEAL SERVICE, COME.

GONGGG

THAT'S SOME DINNER BELL...

IT'S LIKE OUR OWN MARCH OF THE PENGUINS.

WE'RE HEADED RIGHT TOWARD THE POWER SOURCE.

MAYBE THEY HAVE A REALLY HIGH-TECH KITCHEN.

I THINK WE KNOW WHAT SHOT US DOWN...

IT'S AN OLD PARTICLE BEAM CANNON...

SO WE GOT ONE ANSWER, AND A MILLION MORE QUESTIONS.

BCV BURTON

TO BE CONTINUED...